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United Nations

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 1997

General Assembly
Official Records • Fifty-second Session
Supplement No.23 (A/52/23)

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United Nations • New York, 2000

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The present version of the report of the Special Committee is a consolidation of the following documents as they appeared in provisional form: A/52/23 (Part I) of 24 September 1997; A/52/23 (Part II) of 11 August 1997; A/52/23 (Part III) of 23 September 1997; A/52/23 (Part IV) of 29 September 1997; A/52/23 (Part V) of 11 August 1997; A/52/23 (Part VI) of 12 August 1997; and A/52/23 (Part VII) of 12 August 1997.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

19 September 1997

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/146 of 13 December 1996. The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 1997.

(Signed) Utula Utuoc SAMANA
Chairman of the Special Committee
on the Situation with regard to
the Implementation of the Declaration
on the Granting of Independence to
Colonial Countries and Peoples

His Excellency
Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the
United Nations
New York

CHAPTER I

ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

2. At its seventeenth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] the General Assembly adopted resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962, by which it enlarged the Special Committee with the addition of seven new members. It invited the Special Committee "to continue to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories which have not yet attained independence".

3. At the same session, by its resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on the question of South West Africa, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to discharge, mutatis mutandis, the tasks assigned to the Special Committee for South West Africa by resolution 1702 (XVI) of 19 December 1961. By its resolution 1806 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the Assembly decided to dissolve the Special Committee for South West Africa.

4. At its eighteenth session, by resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations. It also requested the Special Committee to take that information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to undertake any special study and prepare any special report it might consider necessary.

5. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[2] has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

6. On the occasion of the tenth, twentieth, twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration, the General Assembly, by approving the related reports of the Special Committee, adopted resolutions 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, 35/118 of 11 December 1980, 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, containing a series of recommendations with a view to facilitating the speedy implementation of the Declaration.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by adopting resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsed as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). The plan, inter alia, contained the following provisions:

"22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

"(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;

"(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

"(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

"23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

"24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies."

8. At its fifty-first session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[3] the General Assembly, on 13 December 1996, adopted resolution 51/146, in which it, inter alia:

"5. Approves the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1996, including the programme of work envisaged for 1997;[4]

"...

"11. Requests the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

"(a) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

"(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

"(c) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

"(d) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"12. Calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants;

"13. Also calls upon the administering Powers that have not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1997 session;".

9. At the same session, the General Assembly also adopted nine other resolutions, one consensus and three decisions relating to specific Territories or other items on the agenda of the Special Committee, as well as a number of other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee, by which the Assembly entrusted the Special Committee with specific tasks in relation to those Territories and items. Those decisions are listed below.

1. Resolutions, consensuses and decisions concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Western Sahara	51/143	13 December 1996
New Caledonia	51/144	13 December 1996
Tokelau	51/145	13 December 1996
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	51/224 A and B	27 March 1997

Consensus

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Gibraltar	51/430	13 December 1996

Decisions

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
East Timor	51/402	20 September 1996
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	51/407	25 October 1996

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Item	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	51/139	13 December 1996
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination	51/140	13 December 1996
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	51/141	13 December 1996
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	51/142	13 December 1996
Dissemination of information on decolonization	51/147	13 December 1996

3. Decision concerning other questions

Question	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	51/427	13 December 1996

10. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of East Timor" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session (see decision 51/402).

11. At its 41st plenary meeting, on 25 October 1996, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session (decision 51/407).

4. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

12. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session that were relevant to the work of the Special Committee and that were taken into consideration by the Special Committee are listed in a note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1855).

5. Membership of the Special Committee

13. As at 1 January 1997, the Special Committee was composed of the following 22 members:

Chile	Iraq
China	Mali
Congo	Papua New Guinea
Côte d'Ivoire	Russian Federation
Cuba	Sierra Leone
Ethiopia	Syrian Arab Republic
Fiji	Trinidad and Tobago
Grenada	Tunisia
India	United Republic of Tanzania
Indonesia	Venezuela
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Yugoslavia

A list of representatives who attended the meetings of the Special Committee in 1997 appears in documents A/AC.109/INF/35 and Corr.1 and A/AC.109/INF/35/Add.1.

14. At the 94th plenary meeting, on 27 March 1997, the President of the General Assembly drew attention to a letter dated 24 January 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia to the United Nations addressed to him (A/51/799), containing a request by Saint Lucia to be admitted to membership in the Special Committee. The President informed the Assembly that, having held the necessary consultations with the regional groups, he had nominated Saint Lucia as a member of the Special Committee. At the same meeting, the General Assembly decided to take note of that nomination.

15. At the 96th plenary meeting, on 18 April 1997, the President of the General Assembly drew attention to a letter dated 24 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations addressed to him (A/51/843), containing a request by Antigua and Barbuda to be admitted to membership in the Special Committee. The President informed the Assembly that, having held the necessary consultations with the regional groups, he had nominated Antigua and Barbuda as a member of the Special Committee. At the same meeting, the General Assembly decided to take note of that nomination.

16. At the 99th plenary meeting, on 21 May 1997, the President of the General Assembly drew attention to a letter dated 3 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to him (A/51/862), containing a request by Bolivia to be admitted to membership in the Special Committee. The President informed the Assembly that, having held the necessary consultations with the regional groups, he had nominated Bolivia as a member of the Special Committee. At the same meeting, the General Assembly decided to take note of that nomination.

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 1997 and election of officers

17. The representative of the Secretary-General addressed the Special Committee at its opening (1466th) meeting, on 16 January 1997. The Chairman made a statement at that meeting (see A/AC.109/SR.1466).

18. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba)
Mr. Moctar Ouane (Mali)

Rapporteur: Mr. Farouk Al-Attar (Syrian Arab Republic)

19. Following the death of Mr. Farouk Al-Attar on 5 May 1997, the Special Committee at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September, unanimously elected Mr. Fayssal Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic) Rapporteur.

C. Organization of work

20. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to integrate its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance into the Special Committee and that the meetings of the Bureau, which would function as a steering committee, would be open-ended.

21. By adopting the Chairman's suggestions referred to above, the Special Committee also decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chairman relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (A/AC.109/L.1856, paras. 2 and 3).

22. Statements relating to the organization of work were made at the 1466th meeting, on 16 January, by the Chairman and by the representatives of Indonesia, Portugal, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Cuba; at the 1473rd meeting, on 12 June, by the Chairman; at the 1481st meeting, on 20 June, by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Cuba, as well as by the Chairman; and at the 1483rd meeting, on 16 September, by the Chairman (see A/AC.109/SR.1466, 1473, 1481 and 1483).

23. At the 1474th meeting, on 16 June, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina and Paraguay had expressed the wish to participate in the proceedings of the Special Committee on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

24. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868), the Special Committee took further decisions relating to its organization of work.

25. At the 1483rd meeting, on 16 September, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Argentina had expressed the wish to participate in the closing meeting of the Special Committee. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

26. The Special Committee was invited to attend the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi on 7 and 8 April 1997 (see also para. 91 below).

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

27. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations through officers of the Special Committee.

1. Special Committee

28. The Special Committee held 18 meetings at Headquarters during 1997, as follows:

(a) First part of the session: 1466th meeting, 16 January; 1467th (closed) meeting, 24 February; and 1468th meeting, 30 April;

(b) Second part of the session: 1469th to 1481st meetings, 30 May to 20 June; 1482nd (closed) meeting, 9 July, and 1483rd meeting, 16 September.

29. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon, as indicated below:

Question	Meetings	Decision
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories	1469, 1472	Para. 147
Information from Non-Self-Governing territories transmitted under article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	1469, 1470	Para. 193
Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico	1479, 1480 1481	Paras. 37 and 39
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Island,s Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	1471, 1472, 1473, 1481	Para. 244
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination	1478, 1483	Para. 159
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in territories under their administration	1478, 1483	Para. 170
Gibraltar	1470	Para. 212
East Timor	1474-1477	Para. 207
New Caledonia	1470	Para. 224
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	1470, 1474	Para. 258
Western Sahara	1470	Para. 223

Question	Meetings	Decision
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	1483	Para. 184

2. Subsidiary bodies

(a) Subcommittee on Small Territories, Information and Assistance

30. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to integrate its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance into the Special Committee.

(b) Working Group and Open-ended Bureau

31. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to abolish its Working Group and to entrust its functions to the Bureau, which became open-ended.

32. During the period covered by the present report, the Open-ended Bureau held four meetings and submitted one report (A/AC.109/L.1868).

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

33. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to take the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable as appropriate. In taking that decision, the Special Committee recalled that, in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session,[5] it had stated that, subject to any directives that the Assembly might wish to give in that connection, it would continue, as part of its programme of work for 1997, to review the list of Territories to which the Declaration applied. The Special Committee further recalled that, by paragraph 5 of its resolution 51/146, the Assembly had approved the report of the Special Committee, including the programme of work envisaged by the Special Committee for 1997.

34. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee considered the question on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of its Open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868); the relevant paragraph of which reads as follows:

> "10. The Open-ended Bureau decided to recommend that the Special Committee continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-second session."

35. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendation of the Open-ended Bureau.

Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico[6]

36. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate an item entitled "Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it in plenary meetings.

37. At its 1479th meeting, on 19 June, on the proposal of the Open-ended Bureau, the Special Committee decided to give due consideration to requests for hearing on the basis of its usual practice.

38. At the same meeting, the Chairman drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing the wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. On the basis of the decision taken earlier in the meeting, the Special Committee agreed to accede to those requests and, at the 1479th, 1480th and 1481st meetings, on 19 and 20 June, heard the representatives of the organizations concerned, as indicated below:

1479th meeting

Ms. Manuel Fermin Arraiza, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico
Ms. Iris B. Alfonso, National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights
Ms. Lolita Lebron, on behalf of Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico
Mr. Fernando Martín-Garcia, Puerto Rican Independence Party
Ms. Maribal Rodriguez, on behalf of Comité Puerto Rico 98
Mr. Carlos Vizcarrondo Irizarry, Comisión Autonomista Puertorriqueña
Mr. Noel Cólon Martínez, on behalf of Congreso Nacional Hostosiano
Mr. Anibal Acevedo Vila, Popular Democratic Party
Mr. Gilberto Gerena-Valentin, on behalf of Puerto Rico on Human Rights.

1480th meeting

Mr. Juan A. Robles Ortega, Federación Central de Trabajores
Mr. Pablo Marcano Garcia, on behalf of Comité Unitario en Contra de la Represión y para la Defensa de los Prisioneros Políticos
Reverend S. Michael Yasutake, Interfaith Prisoners of Conscience Project
Ms. Raquel Rivera, on behalf of Puerto Rico Collective
Mr. Frank J. Guzman, Latinos y Latinas de Ambiente
Mr. Jose J. Rivera, Estadidad 2000
Ms. Elsie Valdes de Lizardi, League of United Latin American Citizens of Puerto Rico
Mr. Juan Carlos Lizardi, Puertorriqueños ante la ONU
Ms. Miriam Santiago de Crespi, Puertorricans Pro-Statehood, Inc.
Mr. Ramon Luis Crespi, Organization of Professionals Pro-Equal Rights
Mr. Diego M. Santiago, Puerto Rican Initiative to Develop Empowerment
Mr. Emilio A. Soler Mari, Acción Democrática Puertorriqueña
Ms. Gilma Camargo, on behalf of Center for Constitutional Rights
Ms. Josefina Rodriguez, National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners
Reverend Dr. C. Nozomi Ikuta, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries
Mr. Celso Hernandez Mojica, Ofensiva 92

1481st meeting

Mr. Enrique Fernandez, on behalf of Mr. Luis V. Gutierrez, Member of the United States Congress

39. At its 1481st meeting, on 20 June, on the proposal of the Open-ended Bureau, the Special Committee decided to extend the postponement of the item until 1998, pending the outcome of other consultations and subsequent steps that are continuing to be taken at various levels by interested parties.

F. Consideration of other matters

1. Matters relating to the small Territories

40. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to include in its agenda an item entitled "Matters relating to the small Territories" and to consider it in its plenary meetings.

41. In taking those decisions, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 51/146, by paragraph 11 (c) of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

42. During the year, the Special Committee gave extensive consideration to all phases of the situation obtaining in the small Territories (see chaps. IX-XI).

2. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

43. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to consider in plenary meetings the question of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization.

44. The Special Committee took that decision into account in its consideration of specific items.

3. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

45. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate and to refer it to its Open-ended Bureau for consideration and recommendations.

46. Having regard to its programme of work for 1998, the Special Committee, at its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. Also at its 1478th meeting, by approving the recommendations contained in the report of its Open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868), the Special Committee decided that it would consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 1998 and that, when particulars of such meetings had become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure.

4. Pattern of conferences

47. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Pattern of conferences" and to refer it to its Open-ended Bureau for consideration and recommendations. In so doing, the Special Committee was conscious of the fact that it had initiated some important measures in rationalizing its work methods, many of which were subsequently incorporated in a number of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly. Further recalling the measures it had taken theretofore in that connection, the Special Committee decided to continue to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements.

48. The Special Committee also continued the practice of circulating communications and information material, as far as possible, in the form of informal notes and aides-mémoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and accruing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the documents issued by the Special Committee in 1997 is contained in the annex.

49. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee considered the item on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868), the relevant paragraphs of which read as follows:

> "5. The Open-ended Bureau noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 51/211 of 18 December 1996. By organizing its programme of work effectively, holding extensive consultations and having integrated the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Open-ended Bureau recommended that the Special Committee continue to make optimum and effective use of conference-servicing resources.
>
> "6. The Open-ended Bureau decided to recommend that, taking into account the probable workload of the Special Committee for 1998, the Committee consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) Plenary

January/February	As required
June/July	Up to 30 meetings (6-8 meetings a week)

(b) Bureau

January/July	20 meetings

"7. It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 1998, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Open-ended Bureau recommended that, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, the Special Committee, while fulfilling its mandate, strive to keep its meetings to a minimum."

50. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendations.

5. Control and limitation of documentation

51. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee considered the question of the control and limitation of documentation on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868), the relevant paragraphs of which read as follows:

"8. The Open-ended Bureau noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 of 13 December 1984 and 51/211 B of 18 December 1996. The Open-ended Bureau recommended that, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, the Special Committee streamline its report to the Assembly.

"9. By its resolution 50/206 B of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim record by summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Open-ended Bureau decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it maintain its summary records."

52. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendations.

6. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

53. In compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegations of New Zealand and Portugal, as representatives of the administering Powers concerned, continued to participate, in accordance with established procedure, in the related work of the Special Committee, as reflected in chapters IX and X.

54. The delegations of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America did not participate in the work of the Special Committee.[7] However, as a result of informal consultations with the

Special Committee held during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly in November 1996 and January-March 1997, which resulted in the adoption by the Assembly on 27 March 1997 of a consolidated resolution on small territories without a vote, the delegations of two latter administering Powers expressed their desire to continue informal dialogue with the Special Committee on the question.

55. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 1472nd meeting, on 12 June, adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1860, on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. By that resolution (A/AC.109/2095), the Special Committee noted with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission had been dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration (see para. 147).

56. In the course of informal consultations on the text of draft resolution initially entitled "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination", the Special Committee reached an agreement with the European Union which made it possible to adopt a revised text of the resolution entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing territories" (A/AC.109/2098).

7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

57. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work on the basis of recommendations contained in the report of its Open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868), the relevant paragraph of which reads as follows:

> "13. The Open-ended Bureau decided to recommend that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In that regard, the Open-ended Bureau decided to recommend that the Special Committee consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate."

58. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendation.

8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

59. Information on the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights is contained in paragraph 135.

9. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

60. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee considered the following recommendation contained in the report of its Open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868):

> "4. The Open-ended Bureau proposed that the Special Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 16 January 1997, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Open-ended Bureau also recommended that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 1998."

61. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendation.

10. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

62. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1856) and in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly, the Special Committee decided to follow the procedure adopted at its 1996 session[5] in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-second session.

63. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee decided to authorize its Rapporteur to prepare and submit directly to the General Assembly the various chapters of the report of the Special Committee in accordance with established practice and procedure.

11. Regional seminars of the Special Committee

64. On 24 February, the Special Committee held its 1467th (closed) meeting to review the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the investigation into seminars of the Special Committee (A/51/486, annex). The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, who attended the meeting at the invitation of the Special Committee, made a statement and responded to questions posed to him by the members of the Special Committee, as well as by the Chairman.

65. On 14 March, the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services addressed a letter to the Chairman of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2085, annex) in which he provided further response to the questions posed by the members of the Special Committee at its 1467th (closed) meeting.

66. At its 1469th meeting, on 30 May, the Chairman drew attention to the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the investigation into seminars

of the Special Committee (A/51/486, annex), as well as to a letter addressed to him by the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services.

67. At the same meeting, the Chairman also drew attention to his draft report on regional seminars (subsequently issued as A/AC.109/2085).

68. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of Papua New Guinea, the Syrian Arab Republic and India, as well as by the Chairman and the Director of the General Assembly Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat (see A/AC.109/SR.1469).

69. At its 1470th meeting, on 6 June, the Special Committee adopted the report of the Chairman on regional seminars of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2085) and authorized the Chairman to transmit it to the President of the General Assembly and to the Secretary-General. In the report, the Chairman reaffirmed that the seminars had become an important instrument for the effective discharge of the mandate of the Special Committee and the only available means to ascertain the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories. The report also concluded that the Office of Internal Oversight Services had found no misuse or mismanagement of funds.

12. Decolonization programme in the United Nations system

70. At the 1470th meeting, on 6 June, the Chairman drew attention to a draft resolution entitled "Decolonization programme in the United Nations system" (A/AC.109/L.1862) submitted by Papua New Guinea.

71. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to waive the 24-hour rule under rule 78 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to consider draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1862.

72. The delegations of Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Grenada, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mali, Saint Lucia and Venezuela became sponsors of the draft resolution. The representative of Portugal, an administering Power, also requested that it be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

73. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1862 by consensus (A/AC.109/2094).

74. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2094) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997, appears below:

"The Special Committee,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, entitled 'International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism', and all other relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions,

"Mindful of the statement made by the Secretary-General on 17 March 1997 regarding the administrative reforms of the Secretariat,

"Reaffirming the political nature and substance of its mandate,

"Concerned that the proposed administrative changes could jeopardize, downgrade and undermine the United Nations decolonization programme,

"1. Urges the Secretary-General to continue to avail the Decolonization Branch of all necessary and adequate financial, human and technical resources;

"2. Also urges the Secretary-General to maintain the Decolonization Branch and all its functions pertaining to the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in the Department of Political Affairs."

13. Other questions

75. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and decisions listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1855, paras. 11 and 12).

76. That decision was taken into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings.

Tribute to the memory of Farouk Al-Attar

77. At its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September, the Special Committee paid tribute to the memory of Farouk Al-Attar, former Rapporteur of the Special Committee, who had died on 5 August 1997.

78. The Chairman made a statement, the Chairman requested the Special Committee to stand for one minute in silent tribute to the memory of late Mr. Al-Attar. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Chile, Bolivia, Tunisia, Indonesia, New Zealand (administering Power), Grenada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Portugal (administering Power), the Russian Federation, Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as by the representatives of Argentina and the Office of the Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1483).

Volcanic eruption in Montserrat

79. At the 1483rd meeting, on 16 September, the Chairman, on behalf of the Special Committee, extended deepest sympathy to the Government and people of Montserrat for the tragic loss of life and extensive injuries to its people, as well as for the extensive material damage resulting from the series of volcanic eruptions in the Territory.

80. At the same meeting, the Special Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman, decided to accede to the request of the Citizens and Friends of Montserrat to transmit their petitions to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme.

81. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Chairman, as well as by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda (see A/AC.109/SR.1483).

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

1. Economic and Social Council

82. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 51/141 relating to the item, consultations were held during the year between the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee to consider appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. Further, the representative of the Special Committee participated in the Council's consideration of the related item. An account of the foregoing, and of the Special Committee's consideration of the item is set out in chapter VII.

2. Commission on Human Rights

83. During the year, the Special Committee followed closely the work of the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the question of the right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial domination, and to the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent Territories.

84. In its consideration of the Territories concerned, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolutions 1997/5, 1997/14, 1997/17, 1997/30, 1997/31, 1997/63 and 1997/72; and resolution 1997/22 on the work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as well as the Subcommission's report.[9] The Special Committee also took into account the Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/63 adopted on the situation of human rights in East Timor. It also took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in East Timor and the appointment of Mr. Jamsheed Marker (Pakistan) as the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for East Timor.[10] The Special Committee also took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 51/64, 51/71, 51/73 to 51/84, 51/91, 51/99, 51/105, 51/118 and 51/119 of 12 December 1996.

3. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

85. During the year, having regard to the relevant provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Special Committee continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (see also paras. 93 and 94 below).

4. Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

86. In accordance with the requests contained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Special Committee continued its consideration of the question

of implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. The Special Committee held consultations during the year with officials of several organizations. An account of those consultations and of the Special Committee's consideration of the question is set out in chapter VII.

87. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those decisions are reflected in chapters VII and X.

5. Organization of African Unity

88. Bearing in mind its earlier decision to maintain contact with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, followed closely the work of OAU and maintained close liaison with its General Secretariat on matters of common interest.

6. Caribbean Community

89. Bearing in mind its earlier decision to maintain contact with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, followed closely the work of CARICOM and maintained close liaison with its secretariat on matters of common interest.

7. South Pacific Forum

90. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the South Pacific Forum concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the South Pacific region.

8. Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

91. The Chairman represented the Special Committee at the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi on 7 and 8 April 1997.

9. Non-governmental organizations

92. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 51/146 and 51/147, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization. The related decisions of the Special Committee are reflected in chapter III.

H. Action relating to international conventions/ studies/programmes

1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

93. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to include in the agenda of its 1997 session an item entitled "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

94. The Special Committee continued to monitor related developments in Territories, having regard to the relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (see resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

2. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

95. The Special Committee continued to take into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned relating to the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including in particular General Assembly resolution 51/81 of 12 December 1996 and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General.[11]

96. In a related context, the Special Committee took into account during the year the relevant provisions of Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1997/73 and 1997/74 concerning implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

I. Review of work

97. As noted elsewhere in the present report, the reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991, which brought about a number of changes and improvements in its approach, methods and procedures, were again pursued in 1997. The measures adopted by the Special Committee included the streamlining and consolidation of a number of its resolutions. With regard to the preparation of the consolidated draft resolution, the Special Committee held extensive consultations with the administering Powers concerned and other States as well as with the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories. As in previous years, the Special Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on 12 Territories was consolidated into two resolutions (A/AC.109/2097, resolutions A and B; see paras. 243 and 244).

98. The Special Committee also reviewed its resolutions on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/2095), information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations (A/AC.109/2092), economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2098) and implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/AC.109/2100), as well as its decision on military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (A/AC.109/2099).

99. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a regional seminar at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, in May 1997 in implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991.

100. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Special Committee continued to seek suitable means for the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories to which the Declaration is applicable and formulated specific proposals and recommendations in that regard.

101. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution (A/AC.109/2091) which it recommended to the General Assembly for action at its fifty-second session (see chap. III).

102. The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee decided to defer consideration of that decision until 1998, pending the outcome of other consultations and subsequent steps that are continuing to be taken at various levels by the interested parties. However, in accordance with the recommendation of the Bureau, endorsed by the Special Committee at its 1479th meeting, on 19 June, the Special Committee heard statements by representatives of organizations concerned.

103. In accordance with the guidelines established by the General Assembly, the Special Committee was able during the year to reduce to a minimum the number of its formal meetings and to minimize the wastage resulting from cancellation of scheduled meetings.

104. In an effort to streamline its work further, early in its 1997 session, the Special Committee implemented its decision to integrate the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance into the Special Committee. It also decided to make meetings of its Bureau open-ended. As a result of these changes, the Open-ended Bureau of the Special Committee in effect replaced its Working Group.

J. Future work

105. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, and subject to any further directives that it may receive from the Assembly during its fifty-second session, the Special Committee intends during 1998 to pursue its efforts in seeking the best ways and means for the implementation of the Declaration in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination. In particular, the Special Committee will keep under review developments concerning each Territory, as well as the compliance by all States, in particular the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations. On the basis of that review, the Special Committee will continue to submit conclusions and recommendations on the specific measures necessary to achieve the objectives set out in the Declaration and the relevant provisions of the Charter. The Special Committee also intends to continue its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

106. The Special Committee will continue to fulfil the responsibilities that have been entrusted to it in the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181. The activities to be undertaken in this connection include a seminar in the Pacific region to be organized by the Special Committee in 1998, to be attended by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

107. The Special Committee will continue to pay special attention to the specific problems of the small island Territories, which constitute the overwhelming majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. Aware that, in addition to general problems facing developing countries, those island Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens, the Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate a sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies, with particular emphasis on programmes of diversification. The Special Committee believes also that the issues facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as environmental problems; the impact of natural disasters such as hurricanes and volcanoes and other environmental problems such as beach and coastal erosion, and droughts on these Territories; the ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal and criminal activities; and the illegal exploitation of marine resources of the Territories and the need for the utilization of these resources for the benefits of their peoples should remain in the focus of its attention. In so doing, the Special Committee will continue to take into consideration the recommendations of the regional seminars that it has organized since 1990 (see A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1043, A/AC.109/1114, A/AC.109/1159, A/AC.109/2030, A/AC.109/2058 and A/AC.109/2089).

108. It is the Special Committee's intention to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In so doing, the Special Committee, as in the past, will review the action taken or envisaged by international organizations in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The Special Committee will hold further consultations and contacts with those organizations, as appropriate. It will also be guided by the results of consultations held in 1997 and those to be held in 1998 between its Chairman and the President of the Economic and Social Council in the context of the relevant decisions of the Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee itself. The Special Committee is encouraged by the increasing number of co-sponsors of the draft resolution on the subject which was adopted by the Council in July 1997. Further, the Special Committee will maintain close contact with the Secretaries-General and senior officials of regional organizations such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community and the South Pacific Forum, particularly those in the Caribbean and Pacific regions where the majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are located. The objective of those contacts is to facilitate the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and to foster cooperation between the

specialized agencies and the regional organizations in their assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those regions.

109. The Special Committee intends to take into account the agreement reached with the European Union on the resolution on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2098) and to continue its cooperation with interested States to ensure that the interests of the peoples of those Territories are protected. The Special Committee will continue its study of military activities and arrangements in the Territories and also to cooperate with interested States in this regard.

110. In its resolutions relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly has repeatedly called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee by inviting United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. Having regard to the constructive role played by such missions in the past, the Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information on conditions in the Territories and on the wishes and aspirations of the people concerning their future status. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continue to seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers on the matter.

111. Taking into consideration its mandate over Western Sahara and its primary responsibility to ensure the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) for all Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in accordance with a decision it had taken at its 1397th meeting, on 23 August 1991, the Special Committee may dispatch a mission to Western Sahara during the holding of the referendum in the Territory.

112. Taking into account the views expressed by the representatives of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories at the regional seminars organized by the Special Committee since 1990, as well as the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee will continue to consider, in cooperation with the administering Powers, how to intensify and improve the participation of the representatives of those Territories in the work of the Special Committee within the existing resources.

113. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences, and taking into consideration its experience in previous years, as well as its probable workload for 1998, the Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 1998, which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

114. The Special Committee suggests that, when the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session, examines the question of the implementation of the Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Special Committee that are reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 1998. The Special Committee is gratified that the informal consultations it held with the administering Powers (United Kingdom and the United States) and the European Union concluded in an agreement on the consolidated draft resolution on small territories and draft resolution on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, respectively. It intends to pursue these

consultations which, hopefully, will be transformed into formal cooperation. The Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In this connection, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly again request the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. Bearing in mind the affirmation by the Assembly that direct association of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies is an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of those Territories towards a position of equality with Member States of the United Nations, the Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee of the items relating to their respective Territories. Further, the Assembly might also wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the Assembly and the Security Council in their relevant resolutions.

115. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly make adequate provision to cover the activities the Special Committee envisages for 1998. In this regard, the Special Committee recalls that the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 1998 and 1999 based on the level of activities approved for the year 1997, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made for its approval to the General Assembly. Finally, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly as well as those arising from decisions taken by it during the current year.

K. Conclusion of the 1997 session

116. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee decided to request the Rapporteur to prepare the present report and to submit it directly to the General Assembly, in accordance with established practice.

117. At the 1483rd meeting, on 16 September, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Argentina had requested to participate in the concluding session of the Special Committee. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

118. At the same meeting, on 16 September, the Chairman made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 1997 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/SR.1483). The statements were also made by the representatives of Chile and Argentina.

CHAPTER II

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

119. On 19 December 1991, at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and the Plan of Action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). In the Plan of Action, "aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism", the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Special Committee:

> "[to] organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts."

120. At its 1468th, 1478th and 1481st meetings, on 30 April and 18 and 20 June 1997, respectively, the Special Committee considered the question of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism" and the Caribbean Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories.

121. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January, the Special Committee, mindful of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and by approving the recommendation of its Chairman on the organization of the Special Committee's work for the year (A/AC.109/L.1856), decided to allocate to the Open-ended Bureau and plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as appropriate, the question of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism".

122. On 12 March, the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Caribbean Regional Seminar (A/AC.109/2073) were issued.

123. A detailed account of the organization and proceedings of the Caribbean Regional Seminar, which was held at St. John's from 21 to 23 May 1997, as well as a summary of the discussions held, is contained in the report of the Seminar prepared by its Rapporteur (A/AC.109/2089). The report includes the topics discussed at the Seminar, as well as the list of participants.

124. At the 1481st meeting, on 20 July, the Chairman drew attention to the report of the Seminar (see A/AC.109/SR.1481).

125. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to take note of the report of the Seminar (A/AC.109/2089).

126. At its 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee considered the question of the International Decade on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Open-ended Bureau (A/AC.109/L.1868), the relevant paragraphs of which read as follows:

"11. Noting that the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism provided for the holding of seminars alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, the Open-ended Bureau decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it organize in 1998 a seminar in the Pacific region, to be attended by representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories.

"12. The Open-ended Bureau further decided to recommend that the Special Committee invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 relating to the Plan of Action and submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-third session."

127. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendations.

CHAPTER III

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

128. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to integrate its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance into the Special Committee. The Special Committee further decided to consider the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization in plenary meetings.

129. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1469th, 1470th and 1481st meetings, on 30 May and 6 and 20 June 1997.

130. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 51/147 of 13 December 1996 on the dissemination of information on decolonization, and resolution 51/146 of the same date on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

131. The Special Committee held consultations with the representative of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat at its 1469th meeting and with the representative of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat at its 1469th and 1470th meetings.

132. At the 1470th meeting, the Chairman of the Special Committee drew attention to a draft resolution prepared by the Chairman, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1857.

133. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Antigua and Barbuda and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as by the Chairman, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1857, as orally revised, without a vote (A/AC.109/2091).

134. On 7 July, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2091) was transmitted to all States.

Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

135. The Special Committee observed the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights during its Caribbean Regional Seminar held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997. The report of the seminar (A/AC.109/2089), which the Special Committee took note of at its 1481st meeting, contains the text of statements made by the Chairman of the Special Committee on the occasion of the Week of Solidarity on 23 May 1997, as well as statements by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Portugal, Indonesia, the World Health Organization and the Caribbean Community Secretariat. Statements were also made by the representatives of Montserrat and the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

136. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2091) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997, appears in section C below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

137. In accordance with the decision taken at its 1470th meeting, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,[13]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 51/147 of 13 December 1996,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to achieving complete decolonization by the year 2000,

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. Takes note of the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization;

2. Considers it important to continue its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options of self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. Requests the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to take into account the suggestions of the Special Committee to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To continue to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To maintain a working relationship with the appropriate regional and intergovernmental organizations, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, by holding periodic consultations and exchanging information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Requests all States, including the administering Powers, to continue to extend their cooperation in the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

5. Requests the Special Committee to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

CHAPTER IV

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

138. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of sending visiting missions to Territories as appropriate. The Special Committee further decided that the item should be considered in its plenary meetings and, as appropriate, in connection with its examination of specific Territories.

139. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1469th and 1472nd meetings, on 30 May and 12 June 1997.

140. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, the pertinent provisions of resolution 51/146 of 13 December 1996 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, resolution 51/145 of the same date relating to Tokelau and resolution 51/224 of 27 March 1997 relating to specific Territories. The Special Committee also considered Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

141. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it the report of the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1859) on his consultations with representatives of the administering Powers, undertaken in accordance with paragraph 4 of the resolution adopted by the Committee at its 1461st meeting, on 24 July 1996.[1]

142. At the 1472nd meeting, on 12 June 1997, the Chairman introduced his report (A/AC.109/L.1859), as well as a draft resolution prepared by the Chairman, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1860.

143. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1860 without a vote (A/AC.109/2095) (see para. 147).

144. On 25 June, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2095) was transmitted to the representatives of the administering Powers concerned for the attention of their respective Governments.

145. In addition to the consideration of this question, the Special Committee considered the specific Territories referred to it, taking into account the relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions mentioned in paragraph 3, as well as previous decisions of the Special Committee relating to the question.

146. By adopting at its 1481st meeting, on 20 June 1997, a consolidated resolution on 12 small Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2097), the Special Committee endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations concerning the sending of visiting missions to Territories, as reflected in chapter X, relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

147. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2095) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1472nd meeting is reproduced below:

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Having examined the report of the Chairman on the question,[14]

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand, as an administering Power, in the work of the Special Committee, and that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission was dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994,[15]

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory of Guam, noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific Regional Seminar that a visiting mission be sent to Guam, and taking note of resolution No. 464 (LS), adopted by the twenty-third Guam legislature on 19 July 1996, in which it requested the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory,

Welcoming the commencement of informal dialogue between the Special Committee and some administering Powers,

1. Stresses the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

2. Calls upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

3. Requests the administering Powers to consider new approaches in the work of the Special Committee, and calls upon them to cooperate with the Special Committee in its efforts;

4. Requests its Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate;

5. Also requests its Chairman to enter into consultations with the administering Power of Guam with a view to facilitating the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory.

CHAPTER V

ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH IMPEDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

148. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up as a separate item the question of activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to consider it in its plenary meetings.

149. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1478th and 1483rd meetings, on 18 June and 16 September 1997.

150. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including, in particular, resolution 51/140 of 13 December 1996 relating to foreign economic activities in colonial Territories. The Special Committee also took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; and resolution 51/146 of 13 December 1996 on the implementation of the Declaration. Additionally, the Special Committee took into consideration the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the last preambular paragraph of the resolution it adopted on 16 September (see para. 159).

151. In 1994, the Special Committee, in keeping with its consistent goal of limiting documentation and streamlining its report to the General Assembly, recommended to the Assembly that, in preparing the general working papers on the Territories, the Secretariat should, where applicable, incorporate under separate headings those sections relating to foreign economic and other interests and those on military activities and arrangements in those Territories. By adopting resolution 49/89 of 16 December 1994, the Assembly approved, inter alia, that recommendation.

152. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat containing, inter alia, information on economic conditions, with particular reference to foreign economic activities, in the following Territories: Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands (A/AC.109/2075, 2076-2078, 2081, 2082 and 2088).

153. At the 1478th meeting, on 18 June, the Chairman drew attention to the various working papers prepared by the Secretariat which contained references to foreign economic activities and to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/L.1864).

154. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Chairman and representatives of India, Côte d'Ivoire and Antigua and Barbuda (see A/AC.109/SR.1478).

155. At the 1483rd meeting, the Chairman drew attention to amendments to draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1864 agreed upon by the Special Committee and the representatives of the States members of the European Union through a process of informal consultations, by which:

(a) The title of the draft resolution, which read:

"Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under Colonial Domination"

would be amended to read:

"Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories"

(b) The fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs, which read:

"Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that constitutes an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and obstructs efforts aimed at the elimination of colonialism is a direct violation of the rights of the inhabitants and of the principles of the Charter and all relevant resolutions of the United Nations,

"Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the indigenous populations of the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories,"

would be amended to read:

"Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

"Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,"

(c) The ninth preambular paragraph, which read:

"Concerned about the activities of those foreign economic, financial and other interests which exploit the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories and deprive them of their right to control the wealth of their countries,"

would be amended to read:

"Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,"

(d) Operative paragraphs 3 to 7, which read:

"3. Reiterates that any administering Power that deprives the colonial peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories of the exercise of their legitimate rights over their natural resources, or subordinates the rights and interests of those peoples to foreign economic and financial interests, violates the solemn obligations it has assumed under the Charter;

"4. Reaffirms its concern about the activities of those foreign economic, financial and other interests which continue to exploit the natural resources that are the heritage of the indigenous populations of the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, as well as their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, thus depriving them of their right to control the resources of their Territories and impeding the realization by those peoples of their legitimate aspirations for self-determination and independence;

"5. Reiterates its deep concern about those activities of foreign economic and other interests in the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and the efforts to eliminate colonialism;

"6. Calls once again upon all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises and to prevent new investments that run counter to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories;

"7. Reiterates that the damaging exploitation and plundering of the marine and other natural resources of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories by foreign economic interests, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, is a threat to the integrity and prosperity of those Territories;"

would be amended to read:

"3. Reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

"4. Reaffirms its concern about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, as well as

their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

"5. Affirms the need to avoid any economic and other activities which adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

"6. Calls once again upon all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

"7. Reiterates that the damaging exploitation and plundering of the marine and other natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, is a threat to the integrity and prosperity of those Territories;"

(e) In operative paragraphs 8 and 9, the words "colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories" would be replaced by "Non-Self-Governing Territories";

(f) Operative paragraphs 11 to 13, which read:

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of those activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration;

"12. Appeals to the mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts for the implementation of the Declaration;

"13. Decides to follow the situation in the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of the indigenous peoples and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories, in order to facilitate and accelerate the exercise by the peoples of those Territories of their right to self-determination and independence;"

would be amended to read:

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

"12. Appeals to the mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

"13. Decides to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;".

156. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the amendments without a vote. The Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1864, as a whole, as amended, without a vote (see para. 159).

157. On 29 September, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2098) was transmitted to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

158. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2098) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September 1997, appears in section C below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

159. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1466th and 1483rd meetings on 16 January and 16 September 1997, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[19]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all its other relevant resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and

on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the economic stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when done in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories and could also make a valid contribution to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. Reaffirms the right of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. Affirms the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories;

3. Reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. Reaffirms its concern about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, as well as their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. Affirms the need to avoid any economic and other activities which adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. Calls once again upon all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. Reiterates that the damaging exploitation and plundering of the marine and other natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, is a threat to the integrity and prosperity of those Territories;

8. Invites all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded;

9. Urges the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

10. Calls upon the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

12. Appeals to the mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. Decides to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. Requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

CHAPTER VI

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

160. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up as a separate item the question of military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers on Territories under their administration and to consider it in its plenary meetings.

161. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1478th and 1483rd meetings, on 18 June and 16 September 1997.

162. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 51/146 of 13 December 1996, in paragraph 9 of which the Assembly called upon the administering Powers to eliminate the remaining military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly, and urged them not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States. The Special Committee also took into account Assembly decision 51/427 of 13 December 1996, in paragraph 8 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-second session. Further, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

163. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing, inter alia, information on military activities and arrangements in the following Territories: Bermuda, Guam and United States Virgin Islands (A/AC.109/2075, 2076 and 2086).

164. At the 1478th meeting, on 18 June 1997, the Chairman drew attention to a draft decision on the item (A/AC.109/L.1865).

165. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Chairman and representatives of India, Côte d'Ivoire and Antigua and Barbuda (see A/AC.109/SR.1478).

166. At the 1483rd meeting, on 16 September 1997, the representative of the Russian Federation made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1483).

167. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the draft decision, without a vote, with the understanding that the reservations expressed by the representative of the Russian Federation would be reflected in the record of the meeting (see A/AC.109/SR.1483).

168. On 29 September, the text of the decision (A/AC.109/2099) was transmitted to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

169. The text of the decision (A/AC.109/2099) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September 1997, appears in section C below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

170. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1466th and 1483rd meetings, on 16 January and 16 September 1997, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration

1. The General Assembly, having considered the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to an item on the agenda of the Special Committee entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration",[17] and recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to military activities in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, reaffirms its strong conviction that military bases and installations in the Territories concerned could constitute an obstacle to the exercise by the people of those Territories of their right to self-determination, and reiterates its strong views that existing bases and installations, which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, should be withdrawn.

2. Aware of the presence of such bases and installations in some of those Territories, the General Assembly urges the administering Powers concerned to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States.

3. The General Assembly reiterates its concern that military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration might run counter to the rights and interests of the colonial peoples concerned, especially their right to self-determination and independence. The Assembly once again calls upon the administering Powers concerned to terminate such activities and to eliminate such military bases in compliance with its relevant resolutions.

4. The General Assembly reiterates that the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories and areas adjacent thereto should not be used for nuclear testing, dumping of nuclear wastes or deployment of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

5. The General Assembly deplores the continued alienation of land in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in the small island Territories of the Pacific and Caribbean regions, for military installations. The large-scale utilization of the local resources for this purpose could adversely affect the economic development of the Territories concerned.

6. The General Assembly takes note of the decision of some of the administering Powers to close or downsize some of those military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

7. The General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to continue to inform world public opinion of those military activities and arrangements in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories which constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

8. The General Assembly requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-third session.

CHAPTER VII

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

171. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up as a separate item the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

172. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September 1997.

173. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 51/141 of 13 December 1996, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, in paragraph 17 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-second session. The Special Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on this subject, including resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsing the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

174. The Special Committee also took into account the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/66 of 25 July 1997. In paragraph 15 of that resolution, the Council drew the attention of the Special Committee to the resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the Council's substantive session of 1997 (see E/1997/SR.42). Further, the Special Committee took into consideration the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the fourth preambular paragraph of the resolution it adopted on 16 September (see also para. 184 below, fifth preambular paragraph).

175. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/52/185), submitted in response to the request addressed to him by the General Assembly in paragraph 16 of resolution 51/141, containing information on action taken by organizations of the United Nations system in implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations referred to above.

176. At the 1483rd meeting, on 16 September, the Chairman drew the Special Committee's attention to the relevant documentation, including the report by the Secretary-General (A/52/185) and the reports on the related consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council under the terms of paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 51/141 (A/AC.109/L.1866 and E/1996/81 and Add.1), as well as to a draft resolution submitted by him on the item (A/AC.109/L.1867).

177. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba reported orally on his participation, on behalf of the Special Committee, in the work of the Economic and Social Council in connection with its consideration of the item during the Council's substantive session for 1997 (see A/AC.109/SR.1483).

178. At the same meeting, the Chairman drew attention to the recommendation made by the Open-ended Bureau at its meeting on 15 September to insert a new operative paragraph 9 in draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1867, which would read:

"9. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of the natural calamities such as hurricanes, volcanos, beach erosion, droughts on these Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) The illegal exploitation of marine resources of the Territories and their utilization for the benefits of their peoples."

179. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Chile, the Syrian Arab Republic and Trinidad and Tobago (see A/AC.109/SR.1483). The representative of Trinidad and Tobago proposed further amendments to new operative paragraph 9, by which subparagraphs (b) and (e) would read:

"(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanoes, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

...

"(e) The illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;".

180. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the proposed amendments (to draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1867), as orally revised, without a vote.

181. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the draft resolution, as a whole, as orally revised, without a vote, with the understanding that the reservations expressed by the delegations of the Russian Federation and Chile would be reflected in the record of the meeting (see A/AC.109/SR.1483).

182. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2100) will be transmitted to all States and to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum, the Caribbean Community and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

183. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2100) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September (see para. 181), is reproduced in

section C below, in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

184. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1466th and 1483rd meetings, on 17 January and 16 September 1997, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the reports submitted on the item by the Secretary-General[24] and the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council,[25]

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[22]

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, and resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/37 of 26 July 1996,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories

will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of assistance programmes to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the Non-Self-Governing small island Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea level rise, and recalling its relevant resolutions,

Recalling its resolution 51/141 of 13 December 1996 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. Takes note of the report of the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council,[19] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;[21]

2. Also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[18]

3. Recommends that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. Reaffirms that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. Reaffirms also that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. Expresses its appreciation to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. Requests the specialized agencies and the other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system, as well as regional organizations, to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanoes, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) The illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories.

10. Recommends that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. Also recommends that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. Welcomes the continued initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. Encourages Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

14. Requests the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

15. Recommends that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

17. Commends the Economic and Social Council for its debate[22] and its resolution 1997/66 of 25 July 1997 on this issue and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

18. Requests the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. Requests the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

CHAPTER VIII

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

185. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up as a separate item the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

186. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1469th and 1470th meetings, on 30 May and 6 June 1997.

187. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions, in particular resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, by which the Assembly decided, inter alia, to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer certain of its functions to the Special Committee, and paragraph 5 of resolution 51/139 of 13 December 1996, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-first session. Further, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 51/146 of 13 December 1996, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

188. At the 1469th meeting, on 30 May, statements were made by the Chairman and by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran (see A/AC.109/SR.1469).

189. At the 1470th meeting, on 6 June, the Chairman drew the Special Committee's attention to a draft resolution on the item submitted by him (A/AC.109/L.1858).

190. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1858 without a vote.

191. On 30 June, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2092) was transmitted to the representatives of the administering Powers for the attention of their Governments.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

192. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2092), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997 (see para. 190), appears in section C below, in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

193. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1466th and 1470th meetings, on 17 January and 6 June 1997, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations[23] and the action taken by the Special Committee in respect of that information,

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General on the item,[24]

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 51/139 of 13 December 1996, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 e of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

1. Approves the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations;[23]

2. Reaffirms that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

3. Requests the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 e of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

5. Requests the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

CHAPTER IX

EAST TIMOR, GIBRALTAR, NEW CALEDONIA AND WESTERN SAHARA

A. Introduction

194. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the questions of East Timor, Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara as separate items and to consider them in its plenary meetings.

195. The present chapter contains an account of the consideration by the Special Committee of the Territories (sect. B). It also sets forth the recommendation on the question of New Caledonia to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session (sect. C).

196. In its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions 51/146 and 51/147 of 13 December 1996 and decisions 51/402 of 20 September 1996 and 51/430 of 13 December 1996, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

197. In its capacity as the administering Power concerned and in accordance with established procedures, the delegation of Portugal participated in the work of the Special Committee in relation to East Timor.

B. Consideration by and decisions of the Special Committee

1. East Timor

198. The Special Committee considered the question of East Timor at its 1474th to 1477th meetings, on 16 and 17 June 1997.

199. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2079 and Add.1).

200. At its 1474th meeting, on 16 June, the Special Committee granted requests for hearing from the following petitioners and heard their statements at the meetings indicated below:

1474th meeting

Ms. Milena Pires, Timorese Democratic Union
Ms. Asabel Galhos, on behalf of East Timor Alert Network
Mr. Charles Scheiner, East Timor Action Network

1475th meeting

Ms. Lynn Fredriksson, on behalf of Seeds of Hope - East Timor Ploughshares Group
Mr. José Ramos-Horta, recipient, 1996 Nobel Peace Prize
Mr. Geoffrey C. Gunn, Free East Timor Japan Coalition
Mr. Constancio Pinto, National Council of Maubere Resistance
Ms. Elizabeth Sissons, on behalf of Hobart East Timor Committee
Ms. Jennifer Coon, on behalf of International Platform of Jurists for East Timor

Mr. Mari Alkatiri, Frente Revolucionaria da Timor-Leste Independente (FRETILIN)
Mr. Alyn Ware, on behalf of Auckland East Timor Independence Committee
Mr. Augusto Miclat, Jr., on behalf of Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor
Ms. Sidney Jones, Human Rights Watch/Asia
Mr. Abilio Araujo, Timor Foundation for Reconciliation and Development
Mr. Rogério Pereira, Timorese Youth for Reconciliation
Ms. Inocencia Ximenes Neves, Timorese Cultural Group
Mr. Antonio Maria Araujo, Movement of Support to the Intra-Timorese Dialogue
Ms. Maria Lourdes Soares, Timorese Cultural and Ethnic Research Centre

Ms. Rebecca Kauffman, on behalf of Pax Christi International
Mr. Roger Clark, on behalf of International League for Human Rights
Mr. Azancot de Menezes, Associação Socialista de Timor
Mrs. Rodica Pintea-Austin, member, London University
Mr. Nuno Krus Abecasis, Member of Parliament/Social Democratic Centre/Popular Party, Portugal
Mr. Antonio Barbosa de Melo, Member of Parliament/Social Democratic Party, Portugal
Mr. Pedro Ricardo Cavaco Castanheira Jorge, Member of Parliament/Socialist Party, Portugal
Mr. Manuel Macedo, entrepreneur
Mr. Antonio Tavares, the SOS - Associação de defesa dos Angolanos
Mr. Carlos Galvao de Melo, retired general (Portuguese Air Force)
Mr. Octavio Osorio Soares
Ms. Natercia Osorio Soares
Mr. Florentino Sarmiento
Mr. Simão de Assuncão

1477th meeting

Mr. Domingo M. Policarpio dos Reis
Mr. Kerry Brogan, on behalf of Amnesty International
Mr. Marco Perduca, Transnational Radical Party
Mr. John Miller, on behalf of Supporting Movement for Democratization in Indonesia
Mr. Frank Fitzgerald, on behalf of Korea-East Timor Solidarity, Lawyers for a Democratic Society and Korea Human Rights Network
Ms. Kristin Sundell, on behalf of British Coalition for East Timor
Mr. Ruben Luis Tristao de Caravalho e Silva, Member of Parliament/Communist Party, Portugal
Mr. Liberato C. Bautista, on behalf of Asia Pacific Center for Justice and Peace

201. At the 1474th meeting, on 16 June 1997, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Sao Tome and Principe had expressed the wish to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the item. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

202. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe (on behalf also of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique) (see A/AC.109/SR.1474). The representative of Indonesia made a further statement on a point of order (see A/AC.109/SR.1474).

203. At the 1475th to 1477th meetings, on 16 and 17 June, the representative of Indonesia made several interventions on a point of order (see A/AC.109/SR.1475-1477).

204. At the 1477th meeting, on 17 June, the representative of Portugal made a statement in the exercise of the right of reply (see A/AC.109/SR.1477).

205. In a letter dated 17 June 1997 addressed to the Chairman of the Special Committee, the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations informed the Special Committee that his Government did not share certain views expressed by the representative of Sao Tome and Principe in his statement (see para. 202 above).

206. In a letter dated 19 June 1997 addressed to the Chairman of the Special Committee, the Permanent Representative of Sao Tome and Principe to the United Nations pointed out that his statement had been made as a result of a collective ministerial decision of the five Portuguese-speaking States; however, Guinea-Bissau, as a sovereign State, had the right to disengage itself from that decision.

Decision of the Special Committee

207. At its 1477th meeting, on 17 June, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-second session, it being understood that the reservations expressed would be reflected in the record of the meeting.

2. Gibraltar

208. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997.

209. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (see A/AC.109/2084).

210. At the 1470th meeting, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Spain had expressed the wish to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the question. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

211. At the same meeting, with the consent of the Special Committee, Mr. Peter Caruana, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1470). The representative of Spain made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1470).

Decision of the Special Committee

212. At its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997, the Special Committee decided, without objection, to continue its consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-second session and, in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

3. New Caledonia

213. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997.

214. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2074).

215. At its 1470th meeting, the Chairman drew attention to a draft resolution on the question submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea (A/AC.109/L.1861). The Committee decided to waive the 24-hour rule under rule 78 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and consider the draft.

216. At the same meeting, the representatives of Fiji and Papua New Guinea introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1861 (see A/AC.109/SR.1470).

217. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Mali and the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the course of which they proposed replacing the word "provincial" with the word "territorial" in operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution (see A/AC.109/SR.1470), the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1861, as orally revised, without a vote (A/AC.109/2093).

218. On 30 June, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2093) was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations for the attention of his Government.

Decision of the Special Committee

219. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2093) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997 (see para. 24), appears in section C in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

4. Western Sahara

220. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997.

221. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2087).

222. At its 1470th meeting, on 6 June, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to Mr. Boukhari Ahmed of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO), Mr. Ahmed made a statement at the same meeting (see A/AC.109/SR.1470).

Decision of the Special Committee

223. At its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Special Committee decided, without objection, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-second session and, in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political

and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

224. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1466th and 1470th meetings, on 16 January and 6 June 1997, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia,[5]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Welcoming the strengthening of the process of review of the Matignon Accords[6] through the increased frequency of coordination meetings,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia and building on the positive outcome of the mid-term review of the Matignon Accords, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

2. *Invites* all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians according to the letter and the spirit of the Matignon Accords, which are based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

3. Welcomes measures that have been taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon Accords;

4. Also welcomes the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

5. Acknowledges the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous culture of New Caledonia;

6. Notes the positive initiatives aimed at protecting New Caledonia's natural environment, notably the "Zonéco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

7. Acknowledges the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and territorial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the member countries of the South Pacific Forum;

8. Welcomes, in particular, in this regard, continuing high level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to member countries of the South Pacific Forum;

9. Requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue the examination of this question at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

CHAPTER X

AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, PITCAIRN, ST. HELENA, TOKELAU, THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AND THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

A. Introduction

225. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to integrate its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance into the Special Committee and thus to consider the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands directly at its plenary meetings.

226. The present chapter contains an account of the Special Committee's consideration of the 12 Territories (see sect. B) and its recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session (see sect. D).

227. In its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 51/146 of 13 December 1996 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In paragraph 11 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Special Committee, inter alia, to continue the examination of the question of the small Territories and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination. The Special Committee also took into account relevant resolutions and decisions on the Territories adopted by the Assembly.

228. The delegation of New Zealand, in its capacity as administering Power concerned and in accordance with established procedures, continued to participate in the work of the Special Committee in relation to Tokelau.

229. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, administering Powers concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the Territories under their administration.[27] However, as a result of informal consultations with the Special Committee held during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly in November 1996 and January-March 1997 which resulted in the adoption by the Assembly on 27 March 1997 of consolidated resolution 51/224 A and B on small Territories without a vote, both administering Powers expressed their desire to continue informal dialogue with the Special Committee on the questions.

B. Consideration by the Special Committee

230. The Special Committee considered the 12 Territories at its 1471st, 1472nd, 1473rd and 1481st meetings, between 9 and 20 June 1997.

231. During its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee had before it the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the Territories (A/AC.109/2071, 2072, 2075-2078, 2080-2082, 2086, 2088 and 2090).

232. At the 1471st meeting, on 9 June, statements were made by the Secretary of the Special Committee as well as by the Chairman (see A/AC.109/SR.1472).

233. At the 1472nd meeting, on 12 June, with the Committee's consent, Ms. Laura M. Torres-Souder, representative of the Governor of Guam, made a statement. In accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, a statement was also made by Senator Mark Forbes, Majority Leader, twenty-fourth Guam Legislature (see A/AC.109/SR.1472).

234. At the same meeting, the representative of Tokelau made a statement on developments in Tokelau during the past 12 months (see A/AC.109/SR.1472).

235. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Grenada, Papua New Guinea, Cuba and Fiji. The representative of New Zealand made a further statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1472).

236. At the 1473rd meeting, on 13 June 1997, with the Committee's consent, Mr. Carlyle Corbin, representative for External Affairs of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1473). Because Mr. Lennox Hinds, of the United Nations Association of the Virgin Islands, was not able to make a statement at the meeting, copies of his statement were made available to delegations.

237. At the 1481st meeting, on 20 June, the Chairman drew attention to two draft resolutions prepared by him and contained in document A/AC.109/L.1869. The Committee decided to waive the 24-hour rule under rule 78 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to consider the draft resolutions.

238. At the same meeting, the Chairman orally revised the section of draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1869 B, relating to the United States Virgin Islands, by which:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph which read:

"Noting further the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and observer status in the Caribbean Community,"

was revised to read:

"Noting further the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Community, the Association of Caribbean States and the Summit of the Americas,"

(b) The sixth preambular paragraph, which read:

"Noting also that the question of Water Island is still under discussion between the Government of the Territory and the administering Power,"

was revised to read:

"Welcoming the conclusion of the discussion between the Government of the Territory and the administering Power on the question of Water Island,";

(c) The eighth preambular paragraph, which read:

"Noting with satisfaction that the Territory joined the International Drug Enforcement Conference as a full member in 1995, which would strengthen its capability to combat illegal drug trafficking,"

was revised to read:

"Noting with satisfaction the interest of the Territory in joining the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as a full participant,".

239. At the same meeting, the Chairman replied to questions put to him by the representatives of Cuba and the Syrian Arab Republic. Following an exchange of views between the representatives of India, Antigua and Barbuda and Grenada, as well as by the Chairman, the fourth preambular paragraph of the section of draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1869 B relating to the United States Virgin Islands (see para. 228 (a)) was further orally revised with the deletion of the words "and the Summit of the Americas".

240. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the consolidated draft resolutions in document A/AC.109/L.1869, as a whole, as further orally revised, without a vote (A/AC.109/2097).

241. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement.

242. On 14 July 1997, copies of the consolidated resolutions (A/AC.109/2097) were transmitted to the Permanent Representatives of New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States, the administering Powers concerned, for the attention of their Governments.

C. Decision of the Special Committee

243. The text of the consolidated resolutions (A/AC.109/2097), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1481st meeting, on 20 June 1997 appears in section D, in the form of recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

D. Recommendations of the Special Committee

244. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1466th and 1481st meetings, on 16 January and 20 June 1997, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A

GENERAL

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter "the Territories",

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[24]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the sentiments of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Recalling its resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing its concern that thirty-seven years after the adoption of the Declaration there still remains a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Acknowledging the significant achievements by the international community towards the eradication of colonialism in accordance with the Declaration, and conscious of the importance of continuing effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000,

Taking note of the positive constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories about which the Special Committee has received information, while also acknowledging the need for recognition to be given to expressions of self-determination by the peoples of the Territories consistent with practice under the Charter,

Recognizing that in the decolonization process there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination as enunciated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other resolutions,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand, as an administering Power, in the work of the Special Committee, and welcoming the recent constitutional developments in Tokelau,

Welcoming the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that it continues to take seriously its obligations under the Charter to develop self-government in the dependent Territories and, in cooperation with the locally elected Governments, to ensure that their constitutional frameworks continue to meet the wishes of the people, and the emphasis that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories to decide their future status,

Welcoming also the stated position of the Government of the United States of America that it supports fully the principles of decolonization and takes seriously its obligations under the Charter to promote to the utmost the well-being of the inhabitants of the Territories under United States administration,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the necessity of promoting economic stability and diversifying and strengthening further the economies of the respective Territories as a matter of priority,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Aware of the usefulness both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of appointed and elected representatives of the Territories in the work of the Special Committee,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must not take place without the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other resolutions of the General Assembly,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and considering that the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers should be kept under review,

Noting that the Special Committee held a Caribbean Regional Seminar at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997,[29] to hear the views of the representatives of the Territories, as well as Governments and organizations in the region, in order to review the political, economic and social conditions in the Territories,

Mindful that in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for the Committee to be apprised by the administering Powers, and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

Mindful also in this connection that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters and other venues, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, is a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate, while recognizing the need for reviewing the role of these seminars in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Mindful further that some Territories have not had any United Nations visiting mission for a long period of time, and that no such visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank,

1. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to self-determination, including, if they so wish, independence, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. Reaffirms also that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments, to facilitate programmes of political education in the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with legitimate political status options, including those defined in resolution 1541 (XV);

3. Requests the administering Powers to transmit to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 e of the Charter and other updated information and reports, including reports on the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories regarding their future political status as expressed in fair and free referendums and other forms of popular consultation, as well as the results of any informed and democratic processes consistent with practice under the Charter that indicate the clear and freely expressed wish of the people to change the existing status of the Territories;

4. Stresses the importance for the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to be apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and to enhance its understanding of their conditions;

5. Reaffirms that United Nations visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Power are an

effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and requests the administering Powers and the elected representatives of the peoples of the Territories to assist the Special Committee in this regard;

6. Reaffirms also the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and recommends that priority continue to be given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

7. Requests the administering Powers in consultation with the peoples of the Territories, to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories under their administration against any environmental degradation, and requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in those Territories;

8. Calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the respective territorial Governments, to continue to take all necessary measures to counter problems related to drug trafficking, money laundering and other offences;

9. Stresses that the eradication of colonialism by the year 2000 requires the full and constructive cooperation of all parties concerned;

10. Takes note of the particular circumstances that prevail in the Territories concerned, and encourages the political evolution in them towards self-determination;

11. Urges Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in the twenty-first century in a world free of colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. Invites the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to initiate or to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life of the Territories;

13. Decides to continue the examination of the question of the small Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session with recommendations on appropriate ways to assist the peoples of the Territories to exercise their right to self-determination.

B

INDIVIDUAL TERRITORIES

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

I. American Samoa

Noting that the Government of the Territory continues to have significant financial, budgetary and internal control problems and that the Territory's deficit and financial condition are compounded by the high demand for government

services from the rapidly growing population, a limited economic and tax base and recent natural disasters,

Noting also that the Territory, similar to isolated communities with limited funds, continues to experience a lack of adequate medical facilities and other infrastructural requirements,

Aware of the efforts of the Government of the Territory to control and reduce expenditures, while continuing its programme of expanding and diversifying the local economy,

Noting the non-participation of representatives of the people of American Samoa in the last three regional seminars,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Calls upon the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in the economic and social development of the Territory, including measures to rebuild financial management capabilities and strengthen other governmental functions of the Government of the Territory;

II. Anguilla

Conscious of the commitment of both the Government of Anguilla and the administering Power to a new and closer policy of dialogue and partnership through the Country Policy Plan for 1993-1997,

Aware of the efforts of the Government of Anguilla to continue to develop the Territory as a viable offshore centre and well-regulated financial centre for investors, by enacting modern company and trust laws, as well as partnership and insurance legislation, and computerizing the company registry system,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in tackling the problems of drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Calls upon the administering Power and all States, organizations and United Nations agencies to continue to assist the Territory in social and economic development;

III. Bermuda

Noting the results of the independence referendum held on 16 August 1995,

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties of the Territory on the future status of the Territory,

Noting the measures taken by the Government to combat racism and the plan to set up a Commission for Unity and Racial Equality,

Noting also the report of the intended closure of the foreign military bases and installations in the Territory,

Taking into consideration the statement made in October 1995 by the Finance Minister on the transfer of those lands for development projects,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Calls upon the administering Power to continue its programmes of socio-economic development of the Territory;

3. Also requests the administering Power to elaborate, in consultation with the territorial Government, programmes of development specifically intended to alleviate the economic, social and environmental consequences of the closure of certain military bases and installations in the Territory;

IV. British Virgin Islands

Noting the completion of the constitutional review in the Territory and the coming into force of the amended Constitution, and noting also the results of the general elections held on 20 February 1995,

Noting also the results of the constitutional review of 1993-1994, which made it clear that a prerequisite to independence must be a constitutionally expressed wish by the people as a result of a referendum,

Taking note of the statement made in 1995 by the Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands that the Territory was ready for constitutional and political advancement towards full internal self-government and that the administering Power should assist through the gradual transfer of power to elected territorial representatives,

Noting that the Territory is emerging as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

Noting also the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Also requests the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and all financial institutions to continue to provide assistance to the Territory for socio-economic development and the development of human resources, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Territory to external factors;

V. Cayman Islands

Noting the constitutional review of 1992-1993, according to which the population of the Cayman Islands expressed the sentiment that the existing relations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland should be maintained and that the current status of the Territory should not be altered,

Aware that the Territory has one of the highest per capita incomes in the region, a stable political climate and virtually no unemployment,

Noting the actions taken by the territorial Government to implement its localization programme to promote increased participation of the local population in the decision-making process in the Cayman Islands,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking, money laundering and related activities,

Noting the measures taken by the authorities to deal with those problems,

Noting also that the Territory has emerged as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Also requests the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide the territorial Government with all required expertise to enable it to achieve its socio-economic aims;

3. Calls upon the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

4. Requests the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to facilitate the expansion of the current programme of securing employment for the local population, in particular at the decision-making level;

VI. Guam

Noting with interest the statement made and the information on the political and economic situation in Guam provided by the representative of the Territory to the Caribbean Regional Seminar, held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997,[29]

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the people of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Recalling also the requests by the elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is concerned, pending the expression of the will of the Chamorro people and taking into account their legitimate rights and interests,

Aware of the continued negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act and on the future status of the Territory, with particular emphasis on the question of the evolution of the relationship between the United States of America and Guam,

Cognizant that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

Aware of the potential for diversifying and developing the economy of Guam through commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities,

Taking note of the proposed closing and realigning of four United States Navy installations on Guam and the request for the establishment of a transition period to develop some of the closed facilities as commercial enterprises,

Recalling the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory in 1979, and noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific Regional Seminar for sending a visiting mission to Guam,

1. Calls upon the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as endorsed by the people of Guam, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government of Guam to continue the negotiations on this matter, and requests the administering Power to inform the Secretary-General of progress to this end;

2. Requests the administering Power to continue to assist the elected territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

3. Also requests the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue the orderly transfer of land to the people of the Territory and to take the necessary steps to safeguard their property rights;

4. Further requests the administering Power to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the people of Guam, including the Chamorro people, and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the immigration issue;

5. Requests the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes specifically intended to promote the sustainable development of

economic activities and enterprises by the people of Guam, including the Chamorro people;

6. Also requests the administering Power to continue to support appropriate measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting growth in commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities;

VII. Montserrat

Noting with interest the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Montserrat provided by the elected representatives of the Territory to the Caribbean Regional Seminar, held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997,[29]

Noting that the last visiting mission took place in 1982,

Noting also the functioning of a democratic process in Montserrat, and that general elections were held in the Territory in November 1996,

Taking note of the reported statement of the Chief Minister that his preference was for independence within a political union with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and that self-reliance was more of a priority than independence,

Noting with concern the dire consequences of a volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of a third of the Territory's population to safe areas of the island, and which continues to have a negative impact upon the economy of the island,

Noting the efforts of the administering Power and the Government of the Territory to meet the emergency situation caused by the volcanic eruption, including the implementation of a wide range of contingency measures for both the private and the public sectors in Montserrat,

Noting also the coordinated response measures taken by the United Nations Development Programme and the assistance of the United Nations disaster management team,

Noting with deep concern that a substantial number of the inhabitants of the Territory continue to live in shelters because of volcanic activity,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Calls upon the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system as well as regional and other organizations to provide urgent emergency assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

VIII. Pitcairn

Taking into account the unique nature of Pitcairn in terms of population and area,

Expressing its satisfaction with the continued economic and social advancement of the Territory, as well as with the improvement of its communications with the outside world and its management plan to address conservation issues,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Also requests the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

IX. St. Helena

Taking into account the unique character of St. Helena, its population and its natural resources,

Aware of the request by the Legislative Council of St. Helena that the administering Power conduct a constitutional review in the Territory,

Noting the statement of 1995 by the administering Power that the Governor of the island would be ready to enter into debate on a constitutional review of St. Helena,

Aware of the establishment by the Government of the Territory of the Development Agency in 1995 to encourage private sector commercial development on the island,

Also aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial authorities to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population of St. Helena, in particular in the sphere of food production,

Noting with concern the problem of rising unemployment on the island,

1. Notes that the administering Power has taken note of various statements made by members of the Legislative Council of St. Helena about the Constitution and is prepared to discuss them further with the people of St. Helena, and also notes that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association recently sent a delegation to study the Constitution and its application with the Legislative Council;

2. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

3. Requests the administering Power and relevant regional and international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socio-economic development of the Territory;

X. Tokelau

Noting with interest the statement made and the information on the political and economic situation in Tokelau provided by the representative of the Territory to the Caribbean Regional Seminar, held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997,[29]

Recalling the Solemn Declaration on the Future Status of Tokelau delivered by the Ulu-o-Tokelau (the highest authority on Tokelau) on 30 July 1994, that an act of self-determination in Tokelau is now under active consideration, together with the Constitution of a self-governing Tokelau, and that the present preference of Tokelau is for a status of free association with New Zealand,

Recalling also the emphasis placed in the Solemn Declaration on the terms of Tokelau's intended free association relationship with New Zealand, including the expectation that the form of help Tokelau could continue to expect from New Zealand in promoting the well-being of its people, besides its external interests, would be clearly established in the framework of that relationship,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Noting also with appreciation the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the International Telecommunication Union,

Recalling the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau in 1994,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting also that, as a case study pointing to successful decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

1. Notes that Tokelau remains firmly committed to the development of self-government and to an act of self-determination that would result in Tokelau assuming a status in accordance with the options on future status for Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in principle VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960;

2. Also notes Tokelau's desire to move at its own pace towards an act of self-determination;

3. Commends Tokelau for seeking on the basis of wide consultation with its people a form of national government that reflects its unique traditions and environment, and for charting its own constitutional course;

4. Acknowledges the collaboration between New Zealand and Tokelau regarding the Tokelau Amendment Act 1996, which provides Tokelau's national

Government with a legislative power, supplementing the executive power delegated in 1994;

5. Also acknowledges Tokelau's need for reassurance, given that local resources cannot adequately cover the material side of self-determination, and the ongoing responsibility of Tokelau's external partners to assist Tokelau in balancing its desire to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible with its need for external assistance;

6. Welcomes the assurances of the Government of New Zealand that it will meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

7. Invites the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue their assistance to the social and economic development of Tokelau;

XI. Turks and Caicos Islands

Noting with interest the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands provided by the Cabinet Minister as well as a member of the legislature from the opposition of the Territory to the Caribbean Regional Seminar, held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997,[29]

Noting the establishment in November 1995 of the Action Committee for Political Independence, formed by prominent political figures from different parties, and its stated goal of educating the population in the disadvantages of the present colonial status and the benefits of independence,

Noting also the efforts by the Government of the Territory to strengthen financial management in the public sector, including efforts to increase revenue,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities, as well as its problems caused by illegal immigration,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Invites the administering Power to take fully into account the wishes and interests of the Government and the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the governance of the Territory;

3. Calls upon the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to continue to provide assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

4. Calls upon the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

XII. United States Virgin Islands

Noting with interest the statement made and the information on the political and economic situation in the United States Virgin Islands provided by the representative of the Governor of the Territory to the Caribbean Regional Seminar, held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997,[29]

Noting that general elections were held in November 1994,

Noting also that 27.5 per cent of the electorate participated in the referendum on the political status of the Territory held on 11 October 1993, that 80.4 per cent of those who voted supported the existing territorial status arrangements with the United States of America and that the referendum left the status issue undecided,

Noting further the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Community and the Association of Caribbean States,

Noting the necessity of further diversifying the Territory's economy,

Welcoming the conclusion of the discussion between the Government of the Territory and the administering Power on the question of Water Island,

Noting the efforts of the Government of the Territory to promote the Territory as an offshore financial services centre,

Noting with satisfaction the interest of the Territory in joining the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as a full participant,

Recalling the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory in 1977,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Also requests the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

3. Further requests the administering Power to facilitate the participation of the Territory, as appropriate, in various organizations, in particular the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Community;

4. Welcomes the conclusion of the negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the question of Water Island.

CHAPTER XI

FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

245. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

246. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1470th and 1474th meetings, on 6 and 16 June 1997.

247. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly decision 51/407 of 25 October 1996, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

248. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2083).

249. At its 1470th meeting, on 6 June, the Special Committee granted requests for hearing to Mr. William R. Luxton and Mrs. Sharon Halford of the Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), as well as to Mr. Alejandro Betts and Mr. Juan Scott, who made statements at the 1474th meeting, on 16 June (see A/AC.109/SR.1474).

250. At the 1474th meeting, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina and Paraguay had requested to participate in the Committee's consideration of the item. The Committee decided to accede to the requests.

251. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile introduced, on behalf also of Bolivia, Cuba, Papua New Guinea and Venezuela, a draft resolution on the question (A/AC.109/L.1863).

252. Also at the same meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1474).

253. At the same meeting, the representative of Paraguay, on behalf of the States parties of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay) and also on behalf of Bolivia and Chile, made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1474).

254. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Fiji, Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia and China (see A/AC.109/SR.1474), the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1863 without a vote (A/AC.109/2096).

255. At the same meeting, the representative of Sierra Leone made a statement in explanation of its position (see A/AC.109/SR.1474).

256. On 30 June, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2096) was transmitted to the Permanent Representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and

Northern Ireland and of Argentina to the United Nations for the attention of their Governments.

257. The delegation of the United Kingdom, the administering Power concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the item."

B. Decision of the Special Committee

258. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2096) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1474th meeting, on 16 June 1997, to which reference is made in paragraph 254, is reproduced below:

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 16 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19 of 17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988, Special Committee resolutions A/AC.109/756 of 1 September 1983, A/AC.109/793 of 21 August 1984, A/AC.109/842 of 9 August 1985, A/AC.109/885 of 14 August 1986, A/AC.109/930 of 14 August 1987, A/AC.109/972 of 11 August 1988, A/AC.109/1008 of 15 August 1989, A/AC.109/1050 of 14 August 1990, A/AC.109/1087 of 14 August 1991, A/AC.109/1132 of 29 July 1992, A/AC.109/1169 of 14 July 1993, A/AC.109/2003 of 12 July 1994, A/AC.109/2033 of 13 July 1995 and A/AC.109/2062 of 22 July 1996 and Security Council resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April 1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

Distressed that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), this prolonged dispute has not yet been settled,

Aware of the interest of the international community in the resumption by the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Expressing its preoccupation over the fact that the good level of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom has not yet led to negotiations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Considering that this situation should facilitate the resumption of the negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty,

Reaffirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Calling attention to the importance of the Secretary-General continuing his efforts to give full effect to the mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Reaffirming the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the islands in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

1. Reiterates that the way to put an end to the special and particular colonial situation in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

2. Takes note of the views expressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina on the occasion of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly;[12]

3. Regrets that, in spite of the widespread international support for a negotiation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom that includes all aspects on the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on this question has not yet started;

4. Requests the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25;

5. Reiterates its firm support for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

6. Decides to keep under review the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) subject to the directives that the General Assembly has issued and may issue in that regard.

Notes

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/5238.

[2] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fifty-first sessions. For the most recent, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/50/23); and ibid., Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23).

[3] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23).

[4] Ibid., chap. I, sect. J.

[5] Ibid., chap. I, para. 92.

[6] Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/46/23), chap. I, para. 56.

[7] For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86, A/42/651, annex, and Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

[8] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23), chap. I, paras. 66 and 67.

[9] E/CN.4/1997/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/41 and E/CN.4/1997/79.

[10] E/CN.4/1997/51 and Add.1.

[11] E/1996/83 and A/51/541.

[12] The present chapter.

[13] See A/51/23 (Part II), chap. IV, para. 18. The complete report of the Special Committee will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23).

[14] A/AC.109/L.1859.

[15] A/AC.109/2009.

[16] The present chapter.

[17] The present chapter.

[18] A/52/185.

[19] A/AC.109/L.1866.

[20] The present chapter.

[21] E/1997/81 and Add.1.

[22] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Plenary Meetings, 42nd meeting (E/1997/SR.42).

[23] The present chapter.

[24] A/52/365.

[25] The present chapter.

[26] See A/AC.109/1000, paras. 9-14.

[27] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77, and document A/47/86.

[28] The present chapter.

[29] See A/AC.109/2089.

[30] See A/AC.109/2058, para. 33 (20).

[31] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

[32] Ibid., Fifty-first Session, Plenary Meetings, 4th meeting (A/51/PV.4).

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, 1997

Document No.	Title	Date
Documents issued in the general series		
A/AC.109/INF/35 and Corr.1 and Add.1	List of delegations	27 May 1997 3 June 1997 10 June 1997
A/AC.109/2071	St. Helena (working paper)	15 April 1997
A/AC.109/2072	Pitcairn (working paper)	28 April 1997
A/AC.109/2073	International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism - Caribbean Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997: guidelines and rules of procedure	12 March 1997
A/AC.109/2074	New Caledonia (working paper)	20 March 1997
A/AC.109/2075	Bermuda (working paper)	23 April 1997
A/AC.109/2076	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	13 May 1997
A/AC.109/2077	Anguilla (working paper)	30 May 1997
A/AC.109/2078	Montserrat (working paper)	27 May 1997
A/AC.109/2079 and Add.1	East Timor (working paper)	21 May 1997 11 June 1997
A/AC.109/2080	American Samoa (working paper)	3 June 1997
A/AC.109/2081	Cayman Islands (working paper)	21 May 1997
A/AC.109/2082	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	21 May 1997
A/AC.109/2083	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	20 May 1997
A/AC.109/2084	Gibraltar (working paper)	21 May 1997

Document No.	Title	Date
A/AC.109/2085	Regional seminars of the Special Committee: report of the Special Committee	10 June 1997
A/AC.109/2086	Guam (working paper)	30 May 1997
A/AC.109/2087	Western Sahara (working paper)	30 May 1997
A/AC.109/2088	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	3 June 1997
A/AC.109/2089	International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Caribbean Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997	3 June 1997
A/AC.109/2090	Tokelau (working paper)	6 June 1997
A/AC.109/2091	Dissemination of Information on Decolonization: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997	6 June 1997
A/AC.109/2092	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997	6 June 1997
A/AC.109/2093	Question of New Caledonia: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997	6 June 1997
A/AC.109/2094	Decolonization programme in the United Nations system: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997	6 June 1997
A/AC.109/2095	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1472nd meeting, on 12 June 1997	12 June 1997
A/AC.109/2096	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1474th meeting, on 16 June 1997	16 June 1997

Document No.	Title	Date
A/AC.109/2097	Question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands: consolidated resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1481st meeting, on 20 June 1997	20 June 1997
A/AC.109/2098	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September 1997	16 September 1997
A/AC.109/2099	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: decision adopted by the Special Committee at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September 1997	16 September 1997
A/AC.109/2100	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September 1997	16 September 1997

Documents issued in the limited series

A/AC.109/L.1855	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	10 January 1997
A/AC.109/L.1856	Organization of work: note by the Chairman	10 January 1997
A/AC.109/L.1857	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	4 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1858	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	4 June 1997

Document No.	Title	Date
A/AC.109/L.1859	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: report of the Chairman	10 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1860	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	10 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1861	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	5 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1862	Decolonization programme in the United Nations system: draft resolution submitted by Papua New Guinea	5 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1863	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Papua New Guinea and Venezuela	6 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1864	Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	12 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1865	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: draft decision submitted by the Chairman	12 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1866	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: report of the Chairman	13 August 1997
A/AC.109/L.1867	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	13 August 1997

Document No.	Title	Date
A/AC.109/L.1868	Report of the Open-ended Bureau	17 June 1997
A/AC.109/L.1869	Question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands: consolidated draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	18 June 1997